

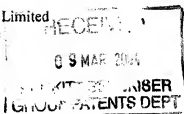


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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Reference: 11360P1 GB/MH
Application No: GB 0326651.7

3 March 2004

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 15 November 2005

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Other matters

It is noted that your earlier application GB 0313032.5 has an identical set of claims to the present invention, but has an earlier priority date. It therefore follows that after publication the earlier application will become relevant as a novelty citation against the present application.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **12 April 2005**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.



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Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 12 April 2005 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

Yours faithfully


H Gupwell
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could prominently indicate in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



Application No: GB 0326651.7
Claims searched: 1 - 13

Examiner: H Gupwell
Date of search: 2 March 2004

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1 - 10	GB 2384704 A (BOOTS) see whole document.
X	11 & 12	EP 0101767 A (LAZARUS) see abstract and figures.
X	11 & 12	FR 2426549 A (FRESSE) see abstract and figures.
A		GB 2364502 A (RECKITT).
A		DE 29608647 U1 (RIEDER).

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC[®]:

A4V.

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

A45D.

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO.



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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Novelty

1. The invention as defined in claims 1 - 10 is not new because it has already been disclosed in the following document:

GB 2384704 A (BOOTS) see whole document.

2. GB 2384704 relates to a unitary device for removal of a depilatory composition from the skin and comprises a head, a handle and a hinged portion. There does not appear to be anything within the above listed claims which are able to distinguish the present invention from the prior art. It is therefore considered that claims 1 - 10 are not novel.

Inventive step

3. The invention as defined in claims 11 & 12 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following documents:

EP 0101767 A (LAZARUS) relevant to claims 11 & 12 see abstract and figures.

FR 2426549 A (FRESSE) relevant to claims 11 & 12 see abstract and figures.

4. EP 0101767 & FR 2426549 both relate to shaving apparatus and disclose a combined razor and lather reservoir, which for all intents and purposes is equivalent to the apparatus of claims 11 & 12, which relate to a combination of a scraper and a container holding fluid, which does not seem to have any technical advantage over EP 0101767 or FR 2426549. It is therefore considered that claims 11 & 12 are not inventive.

5. The above documents are examples that were found during the search and if the claims are retained then the search may need to be extended.

6. Amendment is considered necessary to overcome the above objections.